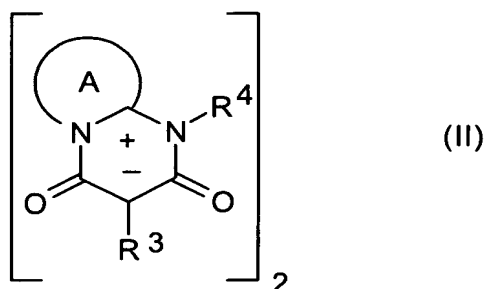


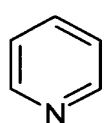
Amendments to the Claims:

1) (Currently Amended) A dimeric compound of formula (II)

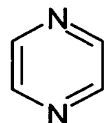


where the two monomeric units are linked either via  $R^3$  or via  $R^4$ ;

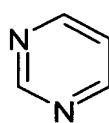
the ring A is a five- or six-membered heteroaromatic ring of structure A1 to A7



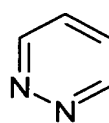
A1



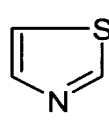
A2



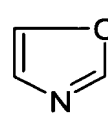
A3



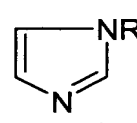
A4



A5



A6



A7

where the rings A1 to A7 are unsubstituted,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl or phenyl substituted ~~and/or~~ fused with a benzene ring or a combination thereof,

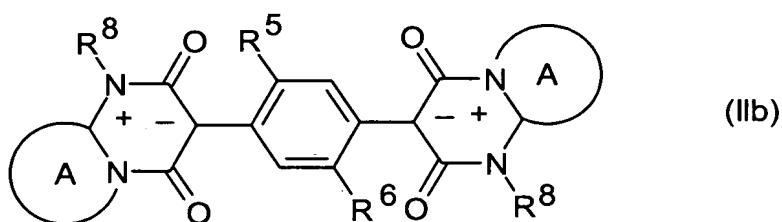
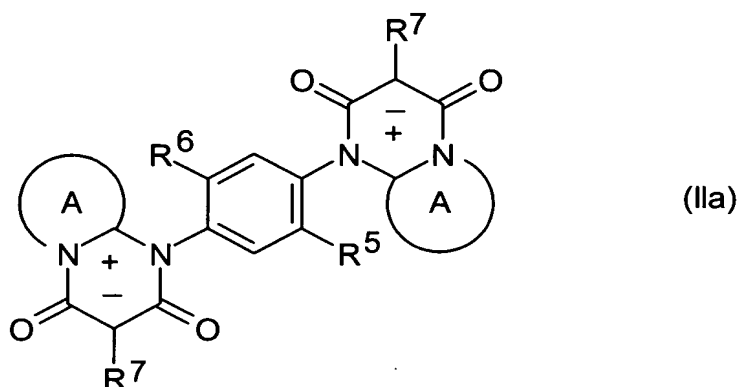
one of  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  is an unsubstituted phenylene radical or a phenylene radical substituted by one or more of alkyl-, alkoxy- and/or or halogen-substituted phenylene radical substitutions,

the other one of  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  is  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl,  $C_5$ - $C_6$ -cycloalkyl, an unsubstituted phenyl, a phenyl substituted by one or more of alkyl-, alkoxy-, nitro-, phenyl-, alkoxycarbonyl-, dialkylamino-, dialkylaminocarbonyl-, alkylaminocarbonyl-, aminocarbonyl- and/or or halogen-substituted phenylsubstitutions, benzyl, benzanilide,  $C_5$ - $C_6$ -cycloalkyl or naphthyl;

or where the  $NR^4$  group ~~may combine~~ combines with the A ring to form a 5- or 6-membered heterocycle ~~which may be additionally~~ optionally fused with a benzene ring, and  $R^3$  is an unsubstituted phenylene or a phenylene substituted by one or

more of alkyl-, alkoxy- and/or or halogen-substituted phenylene radical substitutions; and R is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl or phenyl.

2) (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1, characterized by the general wherein formula (II) is of the formula ~~formulae (IIa) and or (IIb)~~



where

R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are independently hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxy or halogen;

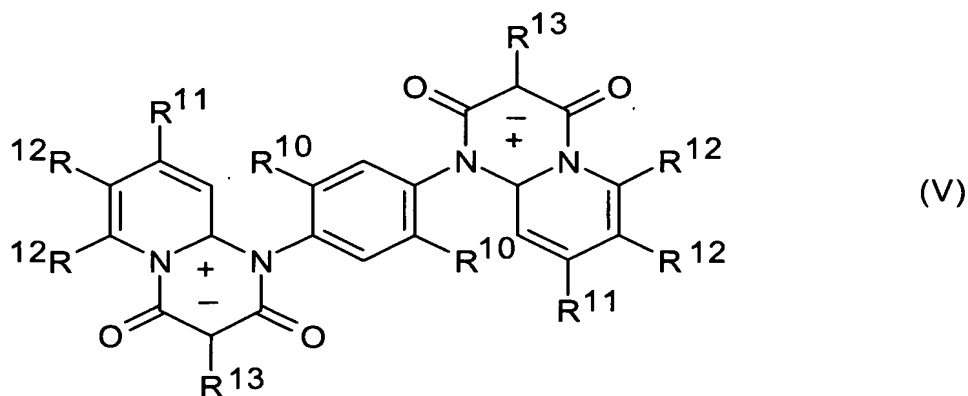
R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> are C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-cycloalkyl, a phenyl, benzyl, benzanilide or naphthyl that is unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2, 3 or 4 radicals selected from the group consisting of C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxy, nitro, phenyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl, di(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>-alkyl)amino, di(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>-alkyl)aminocarbonyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>-alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminocarbonyl and/or and chlorine;

or where the  $\text{NR}^8$  group combines with the A ring to form a 5- or 6-membered heterocycle which may be additionally optionally fused with a benzene ring.

3) (Original) A compound according to claim 2, wherein  $\text{R}^5$  and  $\text{R}^6$  are the same or different and are each hydrogen, methyl or chlorine.

4) (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~one or more of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein  $\text{R}^3$ ,  $\text{R}^4$ ,  $\text{R}^7$  and  $\text{R}^8$  is a substituted phenyl radical selected from the group consisting of 1-, 2-, 3-methyl-, ethyl-, methoxy-, ethoxy-, diethylamino-, chloro-, 2,5-dichloro-, 3-chloro-4-methyl-, 3-chloro-4-methoxy- and 4-nitrophenyl.

5) (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~at least one of claims 1 to 4,~~ characterized by claim 1, wherein formula (II) is of the formula (V)



where

$\text{R}^{10}$  is hydrogen, methyl or chlorine,

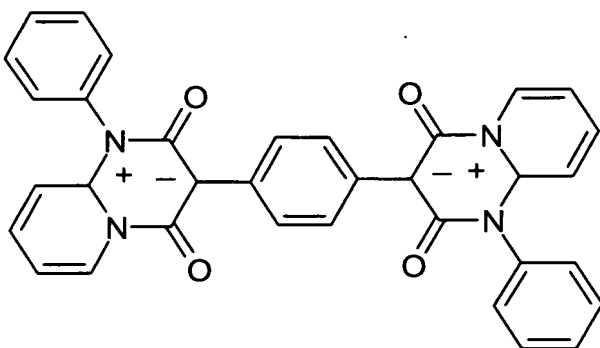
$\text{R}^{11}$  is hydrogen or methyl,

$\text{R}^{12}$  is hydrogen, or two adjacent  $\text{R}^{12}$  radicals together are a divalent  $\text{C}_4\text{H}_4$  radical,

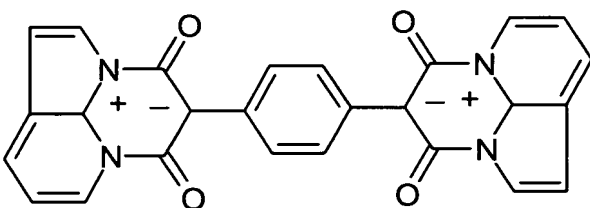
and

$\text{R}^{13}$  is methyl or phenyl.

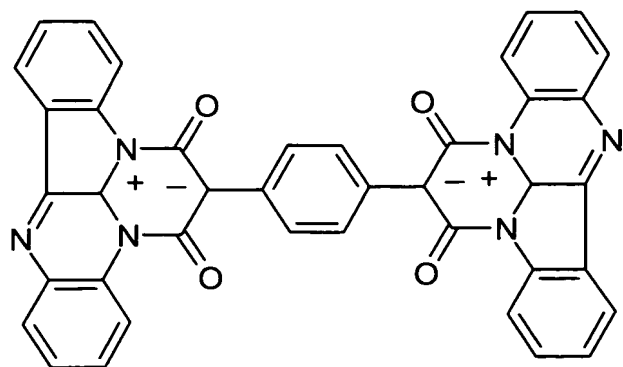
- 6) (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized ~~by the~~ wherein formula (II) is of the formula (11), (12), (13) or (14)



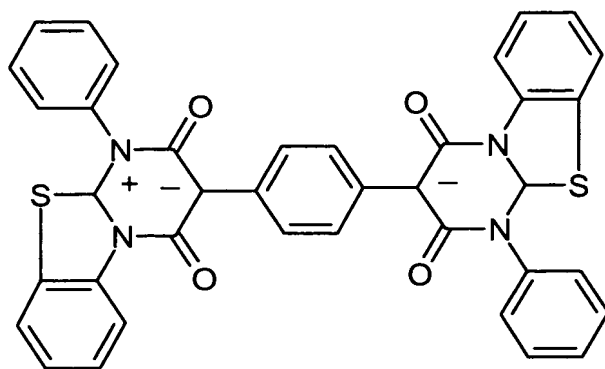
11



12



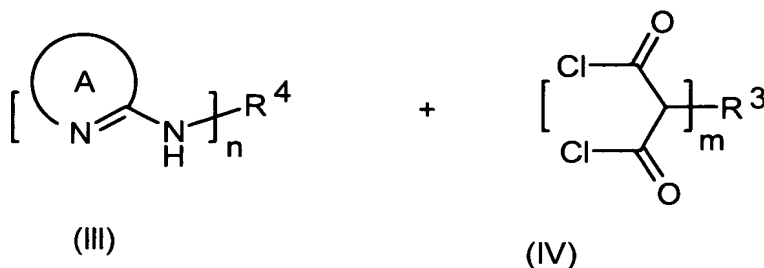
13



14

7) (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound according to ~~one~~  
~~or more of claims 1 to 6, which comprises claim 1, comprising the step of~~  
condensing either

- (a) one equivalent of the compound of formula (III) where n is 2 with about two equivalents of the compound of formula (IV) where m is 1; or
- (b) one equivalent of the compound of formula (IV) where m is 2 with about two equivalents of the compound of formula (III) where n is 1,



8) (Original) The process according to claim 7, wherein the condensing is effected in the presence of a base.

9) (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 7 ~~or 8~~ wherein the compound of formula (II) is subjected to ~~a~~ at least one of fine-dividing operation ~~and/or~~ or solvent treatment.

10) (Currently Amended) ~~The use of a compound according to one or more of claims 1 to 6 for pigmenting~~ A macromolecular organic materials material of natural or synthetic origin pigmented with a compound according to claim 1.

11) (Currently Amended) ~~The use according to claim 10 for pigmenting~~ A composition pigmented by a compound according to claim 1, wherein the composition is selected from the group consisting of plastics, resins, coatings, paints, electrophotographic toners, ~~and~~ electrophotographic developers, electret materials, color filters, inks, ~~including inkjet inks, and nonjettable printing inks, and~~ seed.